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Feedback Design and Preference Elicitation: Field Experiments in Digital Economics

Romensen, Gert-Jan

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Propositions

accompanying the PhD thesis

Feedback Design and Preference Elicitation: Field Experiments in Digital Economics

by

Gert-Jan Romensen

1. Tailoring peer-comparison feedback to disaggregate productivity dimensions has no overall effect on worker productivity (Chapter 2).
2. In-person coaching by experienced peers generates significant improvements on multiple dimensions of worker productivity, especially among workers who initially performed poorly, but the improvements diminish over time (Chapters 2 and 3).
3. Letting students observe in real time how much time they have spent studying versus how much they were planning to study, through an individualized study pacesetter, subsequently leads to more ambitious study goals, but without an impact on actual study effort and learning outcomes (Chapter 4).
4. Bunching of study effort before deadlines is in part planned beforehand by students (Chapter 4).
5. In the field, the majority of consumers make choices in an incentive-compatible risk elicitation method that are consistent with risk aversion. The correlation between these choices and responses to a non-incentivized survey question on willingness to take risk is positive and significant, but small in magnitude (Chapter 5).
6. Digital technologies are very capable of identifying individual areas of improvement, but they may be less effective communicators of the subsequent feedback.
7. We may not want to entrust our devices with all our virtues and vices.
8. You cannot move forward on the hedonic treadmill.
9. “It is humbling . . . to understand that the land is more significant than oneself. To know that nature will one day overrun the work of man even more surely than man has overrun the work of nature.” (Adam Weymouth in *Kings of the Yukon*)
10. A pint of Guinness tastes better in an Irish pub.